

**W. Peters, H. M. Gilles: A colour atlas of tropical medicine and parasitology. Wolfe medical atlases — 17. Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd., London 1977, 416 pp. Price £ 18,—**

This book is the 17th volume of medical atlases published by the London publishing house Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. It contains 656 colour and 59 black and white photomicrographs and photomicrographs, 28 maps of geographic distribution, 20 charts and diagrams and 15 tables. It was prepared by 145 specialists or scientific institutions.

The book is divided into eight sections. Each of them begins with a short introduction and then follows the illustrations in a numbered order and complemented with a brief characterization of the etiology, geographic distribution, epidemiology, pathomorphology or laboratory diagnostic of parasitic and tropical diseases. A geographical map of the occurrence is given for every nosological entity with worldwide distribution.

The first section deals with infections transmitted by arthropods, as arboviruses, rickettsioses, and bacterial and parasitic infections. Of the protozoal infections, there is malaria illustrated by the morphology of vectors—anopheline mosquitoes, temperature charts and blood and clinical findings. Also babesiosis, rarely occurring in man, is mentioned in this chapter. The African sleeping sickness is characterized by tsetse flies with their development and ecology, reservoir hosts, clinical changes and laboratory findings. Then follows Chagas disease with South-American reduviid bugs as vectors, armadillo as reservoir host, Romaña's sign, ECG curve, cardiomegaly and megaformations of the intestine, illustrated by X-ray and post-mortem preparation. Leishmaniases are characterized by the morphology of their causative agents and vectors — sandflies of the genera *Phlebotomus* and *Lutzomyia*, reservoir hosts, temperature charts, pictures of patients showing hepatosplenomegaly, and post kala-azar dermal leishmanoid and typical lesions in the Old and New World cutaneous leishmanioses. Lymphatic filariases are illustrated by the morphology of vectors and clinical signs of the disease. Of the subcutaneous filariases there is loiasis transmitted by the tabanid fly of the genus *Chrysops* causing calabar swellings; the adult worm is localized under the conjunctiva from where it may be extracted. The onchocerciasis is illustrated by its vectors—buffalo flies and their ecology in East Africa, typical cutaneous changes with swelling of inguino-crural glands and ocular symptoms. The laboratory diagnostic of onchocerciasis is characterized by the detection of filariae in excised skin snips and subcutaneous nodules.

Part 2 includes soil-mediated helminthiases (geohelminthoses). There are two types of these diseases: one is caused by hookworms with larvae penetrating through the skin and the other by nematodes, whose eggs only survive in the soil and may be ingested. The larvae of animal nematodes produce transitory skin eruption (cutaneous larva migrans), the infection with eggs of dog or cat roundworm is manifested as visceral larva migrans. This part comprises photomicrographs of eggs of flukes, nematodes and tapeworms, comparison of the size of adult nematodes, hookworms attached to intestinal membrane and head capsule as characters used for the determination of five hookworm species illustrated by a scanning electron microscope, a picture of a patient suffering from anaemia and edemas and a picture of "creeping eruption". The strongyloidiasis is illustrated by photomicrographs of larvae, skin changes caused by the migrating larva and lesions in the colon. The ascariasis is characterized by the figures of roundworms and changes caused by them in the section material. This part concludes with figures of whipworms and rectal prolapse in trichuriasis.

Part 3 concerns snail-mediated helminthiases. With the exception of angiostrongyliasis, a nematodosis which is transferred to man occasionally from rodents—reservoir hosts, to this group belong the diseases caused by trematodes, the complicated life cycle of which involves land or aquatic snails as intermediate hosts. The photomicrographs show the larval stages and adult helminths, the photomicrographs illustrate types of intermediate hosts, clinical symptoms of the disease, X-ray sigmoidoscopic and histological lesions in schistosomiasis. The following chapter deals with the fasciolopsiasis documented by figures of eggs of adult fluke and water caltrop as a source of infection. Also the chapters concerning clonorchiasis, opisthorchiasis, paragonimiasis and other trematodoses are arranged in a similar manner.

Part 4 is devoted to infections acquired in tropical regions through the gastro-intestinal tract, as poliomyelitis, infective hepatitis, typhoid fevers, nonspecific gastroenteritis, cholera, brucellosis, enteritis necroticans, melioidosis and leptospirosis. Infections caused by protozoa are illustrated in figures showing trophozoites and cysts of intestinal amoebae in stained mounts, amoebiasis with pathological morphology of intestinal and extra-intestinal lesions. Of other parasitic protozoa there are

*Giardia* and other intestinal flagellates, intestinal coccidia, *Toxoplasma* and *Balantidium*. Trichinellosis is represented by photo-micrographs of larvae and photographs of bush pig, a common animal reservoir in the tropics, and a typical picture of the disease with an orbital oedema. The enterobiasis is shown in a scotch tape swab demonstrating perianal eggs and histological picture of an adult pin-worm in the appendix. Then follow the records of nematodes of the genera *Capillaria*, *Anisakis*, *Terranova* and *Gnathosoma* in man. The dracontiasis is illustrated in figures of papules and ulcers, and operative removal of guinea-worms. Then follow the figures of cestodes of intestine and tissue.

Part 5 comprises tropical and some cosmopolitan infections acquired through the skin and mucous membranes, the infective agents of which are viruses, bacteria, protozoans, helminths, arthropods and fungi. Part 6 deals with airborne infections occurring in the tropics. Part 7 illustrates nutritional disorders.

Part 8 is devoted to miscellaneous diseases including lassa fever, Marburg disease, tropical neoplastic conditions and genetic blood dyscrasias. There are also intoxications with poisonous animals—snakes and tropical spiders, and tropical diseases of various or uncertain etiology.

The book is concluded with 15 tables giving a survey of arthropod vectors of diseases, arboviruses, rickettsial diseases, system of parasitic protozoa of the subphylum Apicomplexa, trypanosomiases of medical and veterinary importance, leishmaniases of the Old and New World, surveys of parasitic nematodes, key to microfilariae, digenetic trematodes, snails and other molluscs of medical importance, man intestinal cestodes, mycoses and myiasis producing Diptera.

The atlas represents one of the most successful publications in the field of medical parasitology and tropical medicine. It is a tool objectively supplementing the text-books. The colour reproductions and didactic value, especially of chapters dealing with malaria, sleeping sickness, leishmaniases, filariases and other helminthiases, are remarkably perfect. This atlas is suitable particularly for the students of medical and natural history faculties, for postgradual studies of doctors, especially infectologists and all specialists intending to travel to tropical developing countries or treating the persons who returned from the tropics, and foreigners.

Dr. J. Jíra, C.Sc.